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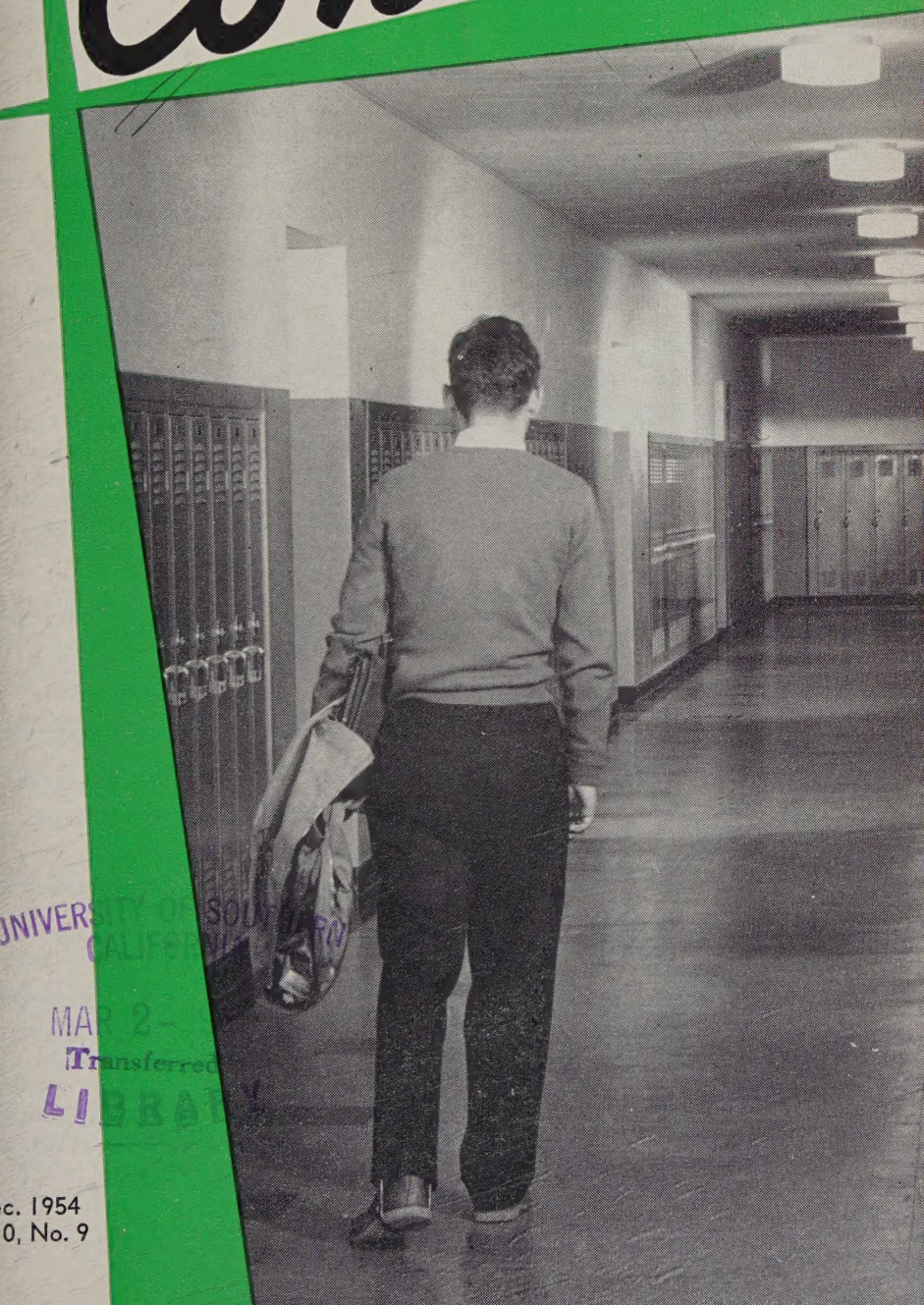
Concern



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Dec. 1954
Vol. 20, No. 9

Cover Photo

"The Sound of the Stone" . . . dragging, lonely footsteps through a long hall . . . this is Ernie, in the film described on page 11.

In this issue--

Glad tidings 1954

Debate at Duke

11 Christmas questions

Harper helped on MYF

Concern

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The editorial policy of Concern as set by the National Conference of Methodist Youth is the Social Creed of The Methodist Church, adopted by the General Conference and printed in The Discipline.

Entered as second class matter September 12, 1945, at the post office at Nashville, Tennessee, under the Act of March 2, 1879. Subscription price: one year, $1; renewal, $1; foreign, $1.50.

What do you know!

For many centuries Christmas has been celebrated throughout the world. What do you know of the origin of the symbols and traditions surrounding it?

1. What does "X" mean as used in "Xmas"?
2. On which day is Christmas celebrated in the town of Bethlehem?
3. Why is a girl kissed when she stands under the mistletoe?
4. The Christmas Rose, which bloomed at Christmas time, was long considered a cure for what ailment?
5. Which famous queen depended solely upon Christmas gifts to replenish her wardrobe?
6. Which people first popularized the use of holly in December?
7. Which colonizers were responsible for bringing Santa Claus to the New World?
8. Why are stockings hung for gifts on Christmas Eve?
9. In which nation did the sale of Christmas seal stamps originate?
10. Who decreed that Christmas Day be celebrated by the Christian world on Dec. 25?
11. What is the famous belief of Scotch and French peasants about a child born on Christmas Day?

(Answers on page 9)

It's not too late to make CONCERN a Christmas gift!

(Cartoon by Frank Hanley from "Men or Marionettes")

Freedom of speech AND debate...

Duke debaters stir national to-do

"I am amazed to learn that such a topic, 'Resolved: That the U. S. should extend diplomatic recognition to the Communist government of China,' was even seriously considered by any group of persons who are normally intelligent and reasonably informed . . .

"I certainly hope you will not undertake to debate the positive position of this subject, as quotations from your statements may embarrass you for the rest of your life."

A congressman's reaction, so worded, to the 1954-55 national intercollegiate debate question, recently exploded a controversy beginning on the Duke University campus and reaching its peak on a national television program. The question of free speech, of course, became the main point of the controversy.

Debate "neutral"

Intercollegiate debate, through the years, has become an accepted area for argumentation and reasoning skill without commitment to conviction or influence of opinion. College debaters may take one side of an issue today and the other tomorrow for the sake of developing forensic skills rather than persuasion.

Freshman Tom Chapman from Newport News, Va., touched off the whole thing early in October when he did as many debaters do: he wrote to his congressman, Edward J. Robeson, Jr., to ask for materials on the debate question.

In addition to the quotation above, the congressman's reply to Chapman's request asked for information on the national debating council and faculty responsibility for Duke debaters.

Action by director

Chapman showed the letter to Joseph C. Wetherby, Duke's forensic director, who reported the incident to Dr. Wayne Eubank of the University of New Mexico, national president of Tau Kappa Alpha, honorary forensic fraternity.

Shortly after, Professor Wetherby was asked to appear on Edward R. Murrow's television program, "See It Now." The program was devoted entirely to the debate topic controversy, which by that time included banishment of the topic from the debate activities of West Point and Annapolis students.

IN THE MIDST OF CONTROVERSY—*These Duke University debaters found themselves in a storm center last month . . .*

Profesor Wetherby, Dr. Eubank, the commandant of Annapolis, Congressman Robeson, the Roanoke (Va.) College debate coach, and student debaters from Temple, Princeton and Dartmouth appeared on the broadcast, presenting various viewpoints.

Duke approves debate

Professor Wetherby read the congressman's letter to the TV audience, explained that Duke debaters were given opportunity to drop out of debate if they objected to the question (none did), and stated the university's support of free inquiry and approval of debate on the current question.

That's the action of the situation. While it was going on, the Library of Congress, after a slow start, distributed its annual resource-material pamphlet on the national debate question, and President Eisenhower said in effect that he didn't see why the topic was

DUKE DEBATERS — *They debated the question and discussed the question—l-to-r: Thomas Gillcrist, Gerald Shugar, forensics director Joseph C. Wetherby, Keith Davis, Carl Stewart and James Harbison . . .*

Defends topic

banned in the service academies.

Professor Wetherby, backed by Duke University administration and tradition, defended selection of the debate topic by the debating coaches of America, and the right of college students to argue on any topic they please.

He commented: "The heartening thing is that this whole affair shows that freedom of speech has not been curtailed despite some thoughtless assaults against it. After all, we were able to air our objections over a national network, before millions of people, and on a program sponsored by one of the country's largest concerns."

Last call for seminar

Carolyn Jennings, chairman of Christian Outreach for Southern Illinois Conference, is first applicant to attend one of the MYF UN-Washington Seminars. *You have just one week to apply* for Feb. 20-26 OR Feb. 27-Mar. 5. Write *immediately* to Youth Department, Box 871, Nashville 2, for an application blank.

Forum

Dear Editor:

Here are some more facts about the Butgereit case.

You will recall that Roy Butgereit, a Methodist who was a conscientious objector, left the U.S.A. on his eighteenth birthday to live with a colony of Quakers in Costa Rica. He secured passport and visa properly, but had not registered for the draft. Registration was required after you became 18 if residing in the U.S.

He later returned to the U.S., to press his claim for draft classification as a conscientious objector. He was then charged by the Immigration Service that he left the country to evade military service, that in so doing he had forfeited his American citizenship, and that he should be deported for illegal entry. He was at no time charged by Selective Service or Department of Justice with a violation of the draft law.

He was found guilty of illegal entry. An appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals held that the evidence was not sufficient and the case dismissed.

It cost $883 for Roy to defend his right to citizenship. He and his family do not have the means to pay this. Interested friends and agencies are seeking to raise this money.

Herman Will, Jr.
Board of World Peace
The Methodist Church

Editor's Note—Contributions may be sent to Butgereit case, CONCERN.

NEWS

British asked for no-bomb pledge

The British Government has been asked by the National Peace Council in London to seek a joint pledge by Soviet Russia, the United States and Britian **never to use the hydrogen bomb under any circumstances.**

If the other powers refuse, then Britian is requested to make such a statement alone.

"These latest weapons are not only instruments of mass murder but of mass suicide," says the Council, which is therefore "convinced that such weapons cannot be justified on moral grounds under any circumstances."

Believing that general disarmament is unlikely soon, the Council points out that "No reliance can be placed on the argument that the very nature of the latest weapons will act in the long run as a deterrent to war."

The National Peace Council is made up of some 40 affiliated organizations, including the British peace and pacifist societies, the Atomic Scientists Association, the Council of Christians and Jews, the London Cooperative Society, the Student Christian Movement, etc.

Drew to have new professor

Dr. William R. Farmer of Coatsville, Ind., has been appointed assistant professor of New Testament in Drew Theological Seminary, and will begin his teaching duties in February.

Dr. Farmer is pastor of the Coatesville Methodist Church and is teaching part-time at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. He has taught previously in the field of New Testament at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, Ga.

Buddy attends school nearby

Buddy Trosper, a sixth-grade Negro schoolboy, thanks to the action of Trenton, Mo., officials, now attends a nearby school as the sole colored pupil among white students.

For the last four years, the Trenton school board, at a cost of $1,225 a year, hired a taxi to carry Buddy to a colored school 50 miles away.

UCYM youth week Jan. 30 - Feb. 6

The Youth Department of the Methodist General Board of Education is cooperating in the observance of Youth Week, Jan. 30 to Feb. 6.

Theme for the week is "One Fellowship in Christ." It is an annual project of the United Christian Youth Movement of the National Council of Churches.

Desired outcomes of the observance will be to help bridge the gaps that separate men; enrich the lives of all mankind without regard to racial, cultural, credal or national barriers; make a vital Christian witness through personal living and cooperative action; help youth find their role in the life of the church; help strengthen the unity of Christian youth in our nation and world in the spirit of Jesus Christ; promote cooperative youth work through worship, service, study and fellowship.

Specific suggestions will be found in *A Manual for Youth Week, 1955,* part of a complete packet containing seven items. The packet is priced at 50 cents and is available from the Department of Publication and Distribution, National Council of Churches, 79 East Adams Street, Chicago 3.

Number of Methodists increases in 1954

Membership in The Methodist Church in the United States and its possessions now stands at 9,223,152, according to official 1954 figures released by the Rev. Albert C. Hoover, Chicago, church statistician.

This represents a net gain of 71,628 over the 9,151,524 reported a year ago.

Church school membership climbed to more than six and a half million (6,574,577) over last year's total of 6,293,718.

Church groups call for integration support

Meeting in Greenwich, Conn., this month, the Protestant Episcopal Church's national council unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon its various units to help promote "a wide, wholehearted and genuine realization" of the Supreme Court's ruling on racial integration, which was termed "just, right, and necessary."

The National Council of Churches of Christ, holding its third biennial assembly in Boston, issued a declaration which, among other things, asserted that "it is the responsibility and opportunity of each local church to create the attitudes essential to carrying out this decision."

The declaration "deplored all efforts to circumvent the Supreme Court decision" and called upon "all Christian churches to help make the transition from a segregated to a non-segregated society not only in the public schools but throughout the community, in such matters as housing and especially in the life and practice of the church itself."

Plan prayer room in U. S. Capitol

A room with facilities for prayer and meditation, for the use of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives is being prepared in the Capitol, pursuant to House Resolution 60.

Completion of the room (first door to the left off the west hallway from the Rotunda) is intended for the opening of the 84th Congress, Jan. 5.

NCC outlines challenge to churches

Some of the challenges confronting the churches today, according to the general secretaries of the National Council of Churches, are:

Dangerous moral conditions, including juvenile delinquency, racketeering and violence, alcoholism, narcotic addiction and corruption in public affairs—disruption of "traditional patterns of family life" as illustrated by the national ratio of one divorce to every four new marriages—materialistic secularism, particularly in many of the nation's universities and colleges—and the impact of Communism, especially in foreign missions areas.

"Is China, North Korea, or northern Indo-China lost to Christ when it is lost from the orbit of Western influence?" they asked.

To help meet these and other challenges, the churches today possess a wealth of resources as unprecedented as today's crisis, the message declared. The general secretaries cited increasing church membership, growing church budgets, and an unprecedented church building campaign.

But the greatest resource of all, the message affirmed, is now, as always, the power of God.

"Old hands" and "stray cattle" joined in a "round-up" party in Washington Park church in Providence, R. I., this fall. The senior MYF and older youth of the church shared the planning and leadership of the party.

15 million packages in nine years

As individuals and through their churches, schools and organizations, Americans have voluntarily sent 15,000,000 CARE packages, containing $165,000,000 worth of needed supplies, to the people of 60 foreign countries during the past nine years.

Starting with the first CARE food package deliveries in France soon after World War II a new CARE booklet takes the agency through development of its newest "self-help" packages and projects, whereby needy individuals and institutions in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America receive farm and industrial tools, educational and health supplies "to help them help themselves."

Among its statistics: CARE has delivered abroad 31,680,000 lbs. of meat; 75,000,000 quarts of milk; 220,000 new books; $2,000,000 in hospital equipment; $135,000 worth of new tools, agricultural and hand tools.

One young girl gets $43,000 pledge

When Albert Schweitzer left Norway after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, he carried away with him a pledge of $43,000, raised in three days by a newspaper campaign, to aid his famous hospital. How the fund-raising came about may serve as a lesson those who as individuals often wonder "What can be done by one person like me?"

Ole F. Olden, Worldover Press correspondent, reports that the ideas for the fund came to a young farm girl while she was feeding and milking her father's cows. She went in the house, wrote a letter to the labor paper **Arbeiderbladet**—which took up the idea with the resulting boost for Schweitzer's great work at Lambarene.

Missionary nurses needed in Congo

One of the big needs in the fight against Hansen's disease (leprosey) in the Belgian Congo is for more missionary nurses, according to Dr. R. E. Kleinschmidt, medical director of the Africa Inland Mission station at Aba, Congo Belge.

The number of patients in the 11 Africa Inland Mission colonies has increased to almost 3,000, Dr. Kleinschmidt reports. And the distances between the widely scattered settlements make it difficult to give adequate medical supervision. One round trip is more than 2,000 miles.

Though some arrested cases are preparing to become nurses' aides, the nursing personnel is still woefully inadequate, he has told the American Leprosy Missions which serves all Africa on behalf of the Protestant churches.

Employment bureau for Indian Christians

The Rev. Lawrence Linton, a Methodist missionary, is director of a unique employment bureau which the Protestant churches of Calcutta, India, have organized to find jobs for Christians in this largest of India's industrial cities.

There seem to be more university and college-trained young people in India (the nation has 30 universities) than there are posts to be filled in the professions, and young Christians are frequently discriminated against in a land where there are strong national religions and the Christians are only 2.5 percent of the population.

So the 34 Protestant churches of Calcutta and vicinity have established their first Christian employment bureau, are listing the available personnel from each church who are seeking employment—and are actually finding employment for some hundreds of unemployed.

Jews change marriage vows

For the first time in over a thousand years a change in the Jewish wedding contract has been approved by the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly of America.

The new provision requires the bride and groom to agree not to seek divorce without first consulting rabbinical authorities.

The good news from Malaya

Now when the birth of Jesus was celebrated in Malaya on December 25, 1954, behond, there came Christians from Southeastern Asia to Kuala Lumpur.

Saying, "Where is the Church that is keeping the festival of Christ? For we have known His love in our lands, and are come to worship Him."

And lo, that love, which they had known in their own countries, guided them to Wesley Church, where a little group of children were singing carols to the Christ Child.

When they saw the love in the faces of the children, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented to Christ their gifts:

The Indian from the Andaman Islands brought a carved brass vase, fashioned by loving hands to be a vessel fit for a King.

The Chinese from Singapore laid on the altar a bowl of porcelain, tinted red for joy and happiness and about it the fragrance of sandalwood and camphor.

The Dyak from Borneo held forth a brightly-hued basket of rattan and bamboo, made at his longhouse from cuttings out of the jungle.

And that Lord opened all the presents and found that all had given alike of that which was precious. For there was rice in the vase of the Indian, and in the bowl of the Chinese and in the basket of the Dyak.

And Christ was able to feed the people because of the gifts of love.

And suddenly there was a dazzling light, and the three Christians looked upon one another, and marvelled, for behold, they were no more Indian, nor Chinese, nor Dyak, but each bore the likeness of Christ.

As a Christmas greeting from the Malay peninsula to their friends in the United States, the Rev. and Mrs. Robert F. Lundy are sending this paraphrase of the Nativity story as told in the second chapter of Matthew. They have been Methodist missionaries in Malaya since 1950, and have been stationed at Kuala Lumpur since June.

VIEWS

Role of America--"nation under God"

"If this nation is not brought more fully under God, its own future will be in peril and the peace of the world jeopardized," Bishop William C. Martin, president of the National Council of Churches, declared to the more than 2,000 church leaders who attended the Council's Third General Assembly in Boston, Mass., beginning Nov. 28.

"According to the world's measure of power, our country has only recently emerged as the most powerful nation in history," Bishop Martin said.

"It confronts unprecedented opportunities and at the same time moral hazards. Real power must be morally responsible. The significance of the role of 'This Nation Under God' cannot be over-estimated . . . So our responsibility —the responsibility of our churches is great. But it need not be overwhelming, because God's power is available to us if we are obedient and faithful. By his power, and by his power alone, we may be enabled."

Share your concern with CONCERN — news, views, questions—Box 871, Nashville 2.

Did You know?

(Answers to questions on page 2)

1. The "X" stands for "Ch," or the abbreviation of Christ, in Greek.
2. Dec. 25 would give you one-third right. That is Christmas day only for Roman Catholics in Bethlehem. The Greek Orthodox and Syrians celebrate Christmas on Jan. 6, and the Armenians on Jan. 18.
3. The ancient druids of Britain believed the mistletoe was given to the goddess of love to keep. Therefore, every woman passing under it must be kissed to show love.
4. Insanity.
5. Queen Elizabeth I. She commanded all her court subjects to give her presents every Christmas Day. The Archbishop of Canterbury gave her $200 annually for clothes.
6. The Romans used holly at their famous Saturnalian festival.
7. The Dutch brought San Nicolaas, as they called him, to our country in the form we know him.
8. The legend persists that St. Nicholas, as a surprise, dropped a purse filled with money down the chimney of a poor family—and the purse rolled off the hearth and into a nearby stocking, thus starting the stocking-hanging tradition.
9. The idea for Christmas seals was conceived in Denmark, in 1904.
10. Pope Julius I, in 351 A.D., after a popular vote among church officials, decreed Dec. 25 thereafter be celebrated as Christmas.
11. A child born on Christmas Day will have the gift of prophecy.

These are the "Fields of the Shepherds" near Bethlehem where the Angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds when Christ was born. (Religious News Service Photo)

Alcohol banned in high places

India's rules of prohibition are as follow:

No alcoholic drinks served at State functions.

No liquor advertisements accepted in India-owned papers.

Elimination of drinking scenes from motion pictures.

Serving liquor banned on all dining cars and in refreshment rooms of railways.

Official direction that diplomatic representatives abroad substitute fruit juices for cocktails at all official functions.

Provincial cooperation and constructive policies of state prohibition.

Congress party rule that no person who carries on trade in liquor or is addicted shall be eligible for reelection as a delegate.

Have you any good ideas?

. . . About the next National Convocation of Methodist Youth . . . about what should be considered in the next National Conference meeting . . . about any propects for youth or students, about anything else connected with youth work in the church?

If you do, there's a group meeting in Nashville Dec. 28-30 which can use those ideas.

The council of the National Conference of Methodist Youth is holding its mid-winter meeting to review its program.

Six members from the National Methodist Student Commission, the four general officers of the NCMY, and several national staff workers form the council group.

They try to represent the best interests of the MYF and MSM in thinking up the best program and emphases for the MYF and MSM, and they can do it best if they have your best ideas and questions.

Address any items to the NCMY president, Dick Thompson, Box 871, Nashville 2, right away—the meeting is next week.

REAL GOOD SPORTS

It was no wonder Baylor University was rated among the best of the basketball teams in 1946. That was almost ten years ago, but there is a story in it.

The reason behind Baylor's unusual team was a little fellow named J. R. Robinson. Not too many of the scribes took him seriously; he was only a sophomore; but before the season was over they all sat up and took notice.

At the end of the season J. R. received the All American rating, and went on to capture the same honor the next two years. in 1947, J. R. (or Jackie, as his friends called him) was the winner of the Jack Dempsey Outstanding Athlete Award. He was such an outstanding basketball player that he was a member of the 1948 Olympic basketball team.

J. R. Robinson

But. J. R. had a job to do. He just wasn't there to play. He soon received his B.A. from Baylor University, B.D. from Southwestern Seminary, S. T. M. from Temple University School of Theology, and did additional graduate study at New College, University of Edinburg, Scotland, and received his Th.D. from Southwestern Seminary.

He has preached in more than 500 churches in the South in the last eight years, journeying an average of 60,000 miles a year. He has traveled, studied, and preached in Europe twice, conducted a Crusade for Christ in Hawaii, and addressed some 18,000 people at the Baptist World Alliance in Cleveland in 1950. He is a member of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance Youth Committee. He preached the Olympic sermon over combined networks of CBS, NBC, ABC, and BBC.

Summer before last, J. R. toured 23,000 miles throughout South America, where he took a basketball team not only to play games against some of their stronger teams, but also to cap-

ivate the attention of the people there and utilize athletes, about which they are so enthusiastic. Besides keeping up the strenuous games they continuously tried to get across the dynamic message about Christ. (In more ways than one, they had a high team average that summer!)

Now at 27, he is pastor of the historic First Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga., which has a membership of 3,000. This alone doesn't slow J. R. down. He finds time to be chaplain of the Civil Air Patrol for the Augusta squadron, and just recently received an honor of the Delta Air Lines Flying Colonel Award.

—Barbara Eskew

United Nations-- peace resource

The new filmstrips and a children's book have been added to the list of materials available on United Nations. The book, "Rainbow Round the World," may be "young" for your group, but you may want to give it as a gift, or refer to it for resource. It tells of the work of the United Nations Children's Fund as seen in action by a boy on a flight around the world, and was published by UNICEF (New York).

The filmstrips are "The United Nations—Blueprint for Peace," for high school, college and adult use, and "The House of the Peoples—a Visit to the United Nations," for junior high and elementary pupils. "Blueprint" reviews ten years of accomplishment by UN in furthering peace.

The filmstrips were produced by the UN Department of Public Information and are being distributed by the Text-Film Department of McGraw-Hill Book Company, 330 West 42nd St., New York 36.

Friends of CONCERN

Juanita Ogletree, Virginia	5
Mary Beth Elkins, Virginia	5
Jerry Winters, Virginia	5
Bill Halls, Michigan	6
Bob Dotson, Oklahoma	10
David Phillips, Iowa	5
Joann Blank, Missouri	5
Charlene Tansey, Indiana	10

CUES

It could happen to you -- easily

"The Sound of the Stone," a new motion picture on civil rights, is being produced by the Methodist Board of Social and Economic Relations.

It will be available for use about Feb. 15, and reservations are being accepted for it in the board's office at 740 Rush St., Chicago II.

Hero of the picture is Henry Jordan, high school teacher who suddenly finds himself labeled, threatened and about to lose his place in the community. Ernie Hughes, a high school pupil, also suffers when the word "subversive" gets started. The whole story could happen anywhere—it will be easy to watch.

"Who knows what the stone carelessly thrown may bring?" asks the film.

India-Pakistan info available free

HURRY! HURRY! Send for the free *Youth Packet on India and Pakistan* right away. (Order from Youth Department, Box 871, Nashville 2.)

You will need this packet of resource materials for the Sunday morning study on "The Christian Movement in India and Pakistan" for seniors and older youth in January.

This is not a packet for popular distribution but it will be valuable to the teacher and youth council, so order one or two for your MYF!

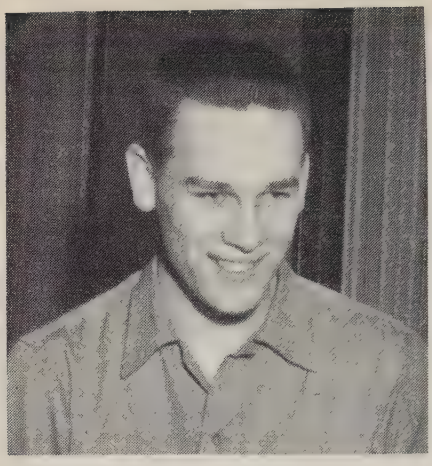
Board of peace offers materials

If you would like to have up-to-date materials on the United Nations, or information about The Methodist Church's crusade for World Order and other peace information, or a directory of Congress, you will find the order blank and some of the free material available on request from the Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11.

Information on many phases of conscientious objection also is available.

MYF in action

(Editor's Note: Guest editor of the MYF section of this issue of CONCERN is George Harper of Montana, former projects secretary of National Conference of Methodist Youth, in Nashville last week for a meeting of conference executive secretaries.)



GLEN MURRAY

V. P. helps Oregon get on the ball

The problem: How do you train MYF leaders and members for MYF work when you have 15 sub-districts and scores of local churches?

The guy who worked on it: Glen Murray, Oregon Conference vice president.

The answer: A program of sub-district Fellowship Teams, trained to do the job in local churches. A conference director can't make visits to all the churches, but 15 Fellowship Teams can.

Right at first, Glen discovered that there was no piece of printed material which said just what he wanted to get at, so he sat down and wrote his own. The result was a practical little ten-page manual which has been distributed in mimeographed form throughout Oregon.

It is designed to give a basic briefing in what Fellowship Teams are and how they operate. Reports coming in indicate that it is doing a good job at it. Oregon MYF'ers tell us that Glen is doing a tremendous job, too, and that his work is really boosting their "Each One Win One" emphasis.

A note addressed to Oregon MYF office, 509 New Fliender Building, Portland 5, Ore., will get you a sample copy if you would like to see one.

CW Missions get results in Georgia

The Christian Witness Mission movement in the North Georgia Conference is gaining momentum with each passing week. Latest ones held were the LaGrange district mission the week-end of Nov. 19-21, and the simultaneous missions held the week-end of Dec. 3-5 in four districts: Atlanta-East, Decatur-Oxford, Gainesville and Dalton.

Though statistics can never tell a complete story, they give an indication of the scope of the movement. As a result of the missions held in the con-

Corvallis (Ore.) MYF members pictured here went out to visit as part of their "Each One Win One" program. They briefed prospects on MYF activities, invited them to meetings.

Net result: 50% of those visited came into their group.

ference to date, the following results have been reported:

Missions have been held in 87 local churches.

780 young people and adult workers have served on visitation teams.

1,997 persons have been visited.

284 persons have been led to make their first commitment to Christ and the Church.

748 new members have been added to the Methhdist Youth Fellowship.

1,074 persons have made decisions of some kind (first commitment, rededication, decision to join the MYF, decision to transfer membership).

Georgians plan to increase the tempo of the movement until every church is reached.

"New" experience is the greatest

In the Kansas Conference, they did it, too.

Seventy-four Methodist youth from 27 churches of the Independence district went forth two by two in a Christian Witness Mission issuing an invitation to the people of Coffeyville to "Come with us to Christ."

This Nov. 4-7 C.W.M. was a new experience for most of the youth. One of them, reporting that experience, said: "As we went out, each of us was wondering if he were capable of doing this great task that had been set down for him. It takes a great deal of Christian faith to be able to put into words how we feel about Christ. But as we went into homes and saw how badly they needed Him, it became a pleasure and a joy to tell them of the Christ we know. The feeling of having helped a person make a commitment of life is one that is not easily put into words either, but there is no greater joy than that of having served Christ — and them!"

One hundred and ten visits brought 27 professions of faith and four transfers of membership. Several parents promised to have their children baptised.

Do you have POWER for January-March?

$4.37 an h ur

The Macedonia, Iowa, MYF made $17.50 in four hours on the town's "Donia Day," washing cars. We thought the picture would look great if it's snowing outside when you read ths.

This Christmas they gave for others

Two carloads, approximately $16,000 worth, of U. S. surplus food is being shipped overseas as a result of one MYF's project.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship of First Church, Palo Alto, Calif., has just announced that its combined junior and senior high school groups have sold 1,700 boxes of greeting cards to amass $945 in profit, more than enough to send the two carloads through Church World Service.

Plans started in mid-September when the church first learned that more than 500 million pounds of stored government surplus foods and commodities could be distributed to hungry people abroad. The MYF decided to help Church World Service collect transportation costs: $1 for every $20 of food released. Sales of cards seemed to be the way to do it.

And sales were easy. Patsy Hagbom, high man in both youth groups with 72 boxes sold, had little more to do than knock on doors and smile to make sales.

But behind her lay an organized campaign. From the 188 members of the Fellowship, evenly divided between junior and senior high, 20 captains had been selected. They, in turn, chose their teams. Naturally, competition developed, and spirit mounted as each Sunday night youth reported their progress and watched the bars on large

thermometer charts (painted by a church member) grow. Deliveries of the five types of cards and gift wrappings were made Saturday mornings by youth and adults, using routings planned by a postal employee who is a church member.

Publicity also played its part. "Share Our Surplus!" became the motto and S.O.S. the appeal. Hundreds of mimeographed flyers were distributed by members in advance of their personal visits to homes. The *Palo Alto Times* carried a picture and a story. The church's bulletin, mailed to 1,300 homes each week, carried news for many issues.

But best of all was the enthusiasm of the youth, who turned the natural appeal of a 20-1 investment in relieving hunger into a big exciting enterprise.

Youth marathon covers district

Ever hear of a "Youth Marathon"?

Address the district MYF president, the district superintendent, or the district director of youth work of the Providence district, New England Southern Conference, and they can describe what they did on one Sept. 25-Oct. 23. On week-ends between those dates they toured the district to meet with pastors, MYF counselors and officers.

During the "marathon," they talked over local church MYF program ideas, obtained accurate MYF mailing lists, and promoted their fall district youth rally.

To follow up, Sunday afternoon and evening visits from Fellowship Teams composed of four youth and one adult leader will help to organize new MYF's and to pep up existing ones.

MYF camels replace mules in Missouri town

At first the drivers on the street beside the Methodist Church in California, Mo., put on brakes to let the camel train pass. Now that those life-size camels and riders in the church yard are a well-known sight in town they still slow down to look at the Three-Wise-Men Christmas setting constructed by the MYF.

The figures were made by drawing the outline in chalk on the basement floor, making the design in heavy wire, mounting the wire on a wooden frame, and then covering the figures. Burlap was used for the camels, and the wise men are dressed in robes typical of their times.

MYF and older youth round-up for "Aldersgate"

Washington Park senior MYF'ers in Providence, R. I., wearing cowboy-type clothes, entertained about 20 non-MYF'ers at a "round-up" party recently. Older youth of the church helped with the recreation and worship for the evening.

On the "Day at Camp Aldersgate" theme there were a pantomime, square dancing and closing worship for the hosts and their "stray cattle."

In Palo Alto, Calif., Mrs. R. Marvin Stuart orders Christmas cards from Toni Lewis and Don McPhail, senior high and junior high MYF presidents (l-to-r). More than two carloads of food was sent to hungry people overseas after the Oct.-Nov. campaign netted $945.

Harper was there for prexy party

It took a terrific civic auditorium like the one in Richmond, Calif., to hold them this year when 2,300 youth of the California-Nevada conference got through buying their tickets to the annual "President's Party."

This year's affair, honoring the MYF and Wesley Fellowship presidents Don Fado and Helen Mayer, brought the usual splurge of color as girls looked a little different (and good!) in evening dresses at the semi-formal gathering. At least, the boys who met them at camps and institutes last summer thought they looked different, somehow.

Institute reunions were part of the evening's program. So were folk games in the big auditorium, talent shows in near-by rooms, group singing, and a speech by George Harper of Montana, former projects secretary for National Conference of Methodist Youth.

The Harper speech and closing worship service brought to a climax the series of Christian Witness Missions held all across the conference this fall.

MYF Roundup

◆ At the youth camp near Leesburg, Fla., 130 program area chairman from MYF's of the **Florida Conference** met to learn what their jobs could have in store for them. While in camp Nov. 19-21, they did a little practical work in the Citizenship area by cleaning up cabins and camp grounds for future use.

◆ In the **Central Texas Conference,** they made their week-end workshop, Dec. 10-12, especially for district and sub-district officers and directors. Conference officers, with adult resource persons, led the training sessions.

◆ On Nov. 13, 30 MYF'ers from **First Church in Evanston, Ill.,** invaded the Halstead Street Institutional Church in Chicago's Southside area. They spent all morning painting, washing windows, cleaning and doing other odd jobs. After lunch there was an opportunity for them to ask questions about the church and its work. Then they went back to finish up on jobs they had started earlier.

◆ **The same group** held a two-day Christian Faith retreat at an Episcopal Center in Sycamore, Ill. Part of their attempt to understand how to use prayer, meditation and study was a 24-hour period which was conducted in silence. Talks by the minister, a communion service, and personal conferences highlighted the retreat.

◆ On the conference basis, a laboratory on Christian Faith and Witness was held two weeks ago at Camp Caesar, W. Va., for youth and adult leaders of the **West Virginia Conference.** Sessions included practical training on how to conduct a Christian Witness Mission in a local church.

◆ Some 2,000 persons were expected at the annual party of the **Southern California-Arizona Conference** Nov. 26. (Did they have them?) They had a good title anyway: "Cosmic Capers"—folk games, reunion with old Institute acquaintances, etc., all included.

◆ **Iowa** is humming again with the T. F. Did you ever go "T. F.-ing"? Iowa district and sub-district officers who hit all the churches in their districts say it's great. So do the churches.

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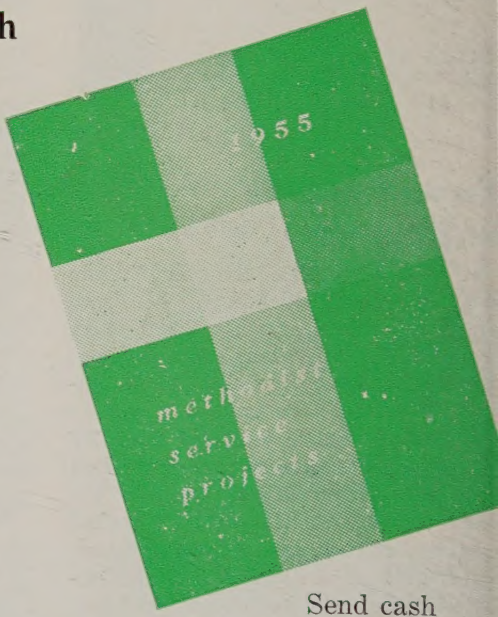

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